

Sir:

PATENT Customer No. 22,852 Attorney Docket No. 4208.0113

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Application of: | |
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| Kiyoshi ABE et al. |)) |
| Application No.: 09/889,007 |) Group Art Unit: 2833 |
| Filed: October 29, 2001 | Examiner: Gary F. Paumen |
| RCE Filed: February 25, 2003 | |
| For: CARD CONNECTOR | EIVED -7 2003 CENTER |
| Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | D 93 ER 280 0 |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of the listed document is attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the

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1300 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202.408.4000 Fax 202.408.4400 www.finnegan.com documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 2, 2003

Leonard Smith, Jr. Reg. No. 45,118

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

| Atty. Docket No. | 4208.0113 | Appln. No. | 09/889,007 | OFE |
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| Applicant | Kiyoshi ABE et al. | | | nu 0 2 2003 W |
| Filing Date | October 29, 2001 | Group: | 2833 | JUL V E 2000 E |
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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Issue Date | Name | Class | Sub Class | Filing Date If Appropriate |
| | 5,820,391 | 10/13/98 | Delprete et al. | 439 | 91 | |
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| | FOREIGN PATE | T DOCUMENT | s | | |
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| Document Number | Publication Date | Country | Class | Sub Class | Translation Yes or No |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | |
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| Examiner | Date Considered |
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| *Examiner: | Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |
| Form PTO 144 | 9 Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce |